GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4505
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AND SHARING OF WATER WITH BANGLADESH
BIKRAM KESHARI DEO;V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any protocol has been signed between India and Bangladesh on inland water transit and trade;

(b) if so, the routes identified for co-operation under the protocol;

(c) the year/date till which the protocol agreement is valid;

(d) the details thereof;

(e) whether there exists any agreement with Bangladesh regarding the use of Chittagong Port for the transportation of commodities to the North East region of India;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any Indo-Bangladesh joint-study group has been set up for exploring the prospects of bilateral trade between Bangladesh and North East region of India; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes.

(b) The routes identified for cooperation under the Protocol are (i) Calcutta - Haldia - Raimongal - Chalna - Khulna - Mongla - Kaushali - Barisal - Hizla - Chandpur - Narayanganj - Aricha - Sirajganj - Bahadurabad - Chilmari - Dhubri - Pandu. (ii) Pandu - Dhubri - Chilmari - Bahadurabad - Sirajganj - Aricha - Narayanganj - Chandpur - Hizla - Barisal - Kaushali - Mongla - Khulna - Chalna - Raimongal - Haldia - Calcutta. (iii) Calcutta - Haldia - Raimongal - Mongla -Kaushali - Barisal - Hizla - Chandpur - Narayanganj - Bhairab Bazar - Ajmiriganj - Markuli - Sherpur - Fenchuganj - Zakiganj - Karimganj. (iv) Karimganj - Zakiganj - Fenchuganj - Sherpur - Markuli - Ajmiriganj - Bhairab Bazar-Narayanganj - Chandpur - Hizla - Barisal/Kaushali - Mongla - Raimongal - Haldia-Calcutta. (v) Rajshahi - Godagari - Dhulian. (vi) Dhulian - Godagari - Rajshahi. (vii) Karimganj - Zakiganj - Fenchuganj - Sherpur - Markuli - Ajmiriganj - Bhairab Bazar - Narayanganj - Chandpur - Aricha - Sirajganj - Bahaburabad - Chilmari - Dhubri - Pandu. (viii) Pandu - Dhubri - Chilmari - Bahadurabad - Sirajganj - Aricha - Chandpur - Narayanganj - Bhairabbazar - Ajmiriganj - Markuli - Sherpur - Fenchuganj - Zakiganj - Karimganj.

(c)&(d) The Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh was entered into on 4th October 1980. Since then it has been periodically renewed. The Protocol is currently valid till 3 February 2003.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No.

(h) Does not arise.